**Consultation Regarding Framework Document for Physiotherapists Working with Patients with Pain**

**Background**

Skills competencies were published in the Journal of Pain and Rehabilitation to provide support for the acquisition of knowledge and skills for physiotherapists working in pain management (Knott, Sowden, Newton-Cross 2012). The Physiotherapy Pain Association supported this piece of work and are keen to extend it by developing a framework document describing levels of expertise of clinicians treating patients with pain. This will then be used to develop a clinical skills competency document. With the support of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP), a working party has been developed, which includes representation from the CSP. The competency framework document is now at a consultation stage and we are inviting you to contribute to this process to maximise its validity and usefulness.

**Purpose of this Document**

The primary role of this document is to provide a reference point for managers and physiotherapists plus other stakeholders e.g. commissioners, to understand the scope of managing patients with pain across the range of experience in physiotherapy: from newly qualified to expert. It is also the aim to provide a reference point for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as it describes the knowledge and skills expected of newly qualified physiotherapists across the spectrum of pain management. Generic physiotherapy competencies are referenced only if they are relevant to the management of patients with pain.

**Plan for Future Work**

This framework document will provide a basis for the development of clinical skills competencies within different specialities across the pain management spectrum, from newly qualified staff on their first rotation or placement to highly specialised and extended roles of working.

**Timeline**

Document development *Jan-Sept 2013*

Consultation process within physiotherapy *Nov-Dec 2013*

Revision *Jan-April 2014*

BPS presentation and workshop: start of

multi-professional and international

physiotherapy consultation *April 2014*

Revision *May-September 2014*

Physio UK launch *October 2014*

Start on specific competencies *November 2014*

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